

EFFICIENT ATTRIBUTE-BASED CLOUD STORAGE FOR SECURE ENCRYPTED DATA DEDUPLICATION

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Abstract -Cloud computing has emerged as one of the most widely used technologies for storing and managing large volumes of data due to its scalability, flexibility, and cost-effectiveness. Organizations and individuals rely heavily on cloud storage systems for data backup, collaboration, and distributed computing. However, the rapid growth of data stored in cloud environments has resulted in increased storage consumption, higher infrastructure costs, and greater bandwidth utilization.

Data deduplication is an effective technique used in cloud storage systems to eliminate redundant data and reduce storage requirements. By identifying duplicate files and storing only a single copy, deduplication significantly improves storage efficiency and reduces operational costs for cloud service providers.

However, performing deduplication on encrypted data presents significant challenges because encryption hides the data patterns required to detect duplicates. This creates a conflict between data security and storage optimization.

This research proposes an efficient attribute-based cloud storage system that supports secure encrypted data deduplication. The proposed system integrates attribute-based encryption with a hash-based deduplication mechanism to ensure both data confidentiality and storage efficiency. The system allows only authorized users with valid attributes to access stored data while preventing duplicate file storage in the cloud.

Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed approach significantly reduces storage space while maintaining strong security and fine-grained access control. The proposed system can be applied to various cloud computing environments including enterprise storage systems, distributed computing platforms, and large-scale cloud data centers.

Keywords: Cloud Computing, Data Deduplication, Attribute-Based Encryption, Secure Storage, Cloud Security, Hash Function.

1. INTRODUCTION

Cloud computing enables users to store, manage, and process data on remote servers rather than on local storage systems. Cloud service providers offer scalable infrastructure that allows users to store large volumes of information without maintaining their own physical storage systems. Due to these advantages, cloud storage has become an essential component of modern information technology systems.

Organizations, educational institutions, and businesses increasingly rely on cloud platforms to store digital resources such as documents, multimedia files, application data, and database backups. As the number of cloud users grows, the amount of data stored in cloud servers increases rapidly.

One of the major challenges faced by cloud storage providers is the presence of redundant data. Multiple users

may upload identical or similar files to the cloud. Storing these duplicate files consumes unnecessary storage space and increases infrastructure costs.

To address this issue, cloud systems use a technique called data deduplication. Deduplication identifies duplicate files and stores only a single copy of the data. When duplicate files are detected, the system creates references pointing to the stored data instead of saving additional copies.

Deduplication can be implemented in several ways such as file-level deduplication, block-level deduplication, and chunk-level deduplication. Among these, file-level deduplication is the most commonly used technique because of its simplicity and efficiency.

Despite its advantages, deduplication becomes difficult when data is encrypted before uploading to the cloud. Encryption transforms the original data into cipher text, making it impossible to directly compare file contents.

Therefore, designing a secure deduplication mechanism that works with encrypted data is an important research problem. A successful solution must ensure both data confidentiality and storage optimization without compromising system performance.

This paper proposes an attribute-based cloud storage framework that supports secure encrypted data deduplication. The proposed approach integrates cryptographic encryption techniques with hash-based duplicate detection to improve both security and storage efficiency.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

Several research studies have focused on improving cloud storage security and deduplication performance. Researchers have proposed various cryptographic techniques and storage optimization methods to address the challenges associated with secure deduplication.

Jin Li et al. (2016) introduced a secure deduplication system based on hybrid cryptographic methods. Their approach improves storage efficiency by eliminating duplicate data. However, the system provides limited mechanisms for controlling user access to encrypted files.

Yang Zhang et al. (2018) proposed an attribute-based encryption method for secure cloud storage. This technique provides fine-grained access control but increases computational complexity during encryption and decryption processes.

Rashid Khan et al. (2019) developed a privacy-preserving deduplication method using convergent encryption.

While the system improves data privacy, it lacks a strong authorization mechanism to control access to stored data.

Kou et al. (2020) proposed a cloud storage system based on attribute-based cryptographic techniques. The approach supports secure data sharing but experiences performance limitations when handling large datasets.

Zhou et al. (2021) introduced a secure deduplication framework with improved access control mechanisms. However, the storage reduction achieved by their system is relatively limited.

Recent research also focuses on integrating advanced security mechanisms such as proof-of-ownership protocols and blockchain-based verification systems. These approaches aim to enhance data integrity and user authentication in cloud storage environments.

Although these methods improve certain aspects of cloud security and storage efficiency, challenges remain in balancing computational overhead, scalability, and storage optimization. Therefore, there is a need for a secure deduplication framework that combines encryption with efficient duplicate detection techniques.

3. EXISTING SYSTEM

In traditional cloud storage systems, users upload files directly to the cloud server without checking for duplicate content. Even if identical files are uploaded multiple times, the cloud stores each copy separately.

This results in excessive storage consumption and inefficient resource utilization. As cloud storage usage increases, this problem becomes more severe and leads to higher operational costs for cloud service providers. Some systems apply encryption to protect sensitive data before uploading it to the cloud. While encryption improves security, it prevents the system from identifying duplicate files because encrypted files appear different even if their original contents are identical.

Another limitation of existing systems is the absence of fine-grained access control mechanisms. Many cloud storage platforms rely on simple authentication techniques such as usernames and passwords. These mechanisms provide limited control over how users access stored data.

Due to these limitations, existing cloud storage systems either provide strong security without deduplication or support deduplication without sufficient security mechanisms.

4. PROPOSED SYSTEM

The proposed system introduces a secure attribute-based cloud storage framework that supports encrypted data deduplication.

In this system, when a user uploads a file, the file is first encrypted using attribute-based encryption techniques. This ensures that the data remains confidential and can only be accessed by authorized users who possess the required attributes.

After encryption, the system generates a cryptographic hash value for the encrypted file. The hash value acts as a unique fingerprint representing the file content.

The generated hash value is compared with the hash values stored in the cloud database. If a matching hash value is found, the system identifies the file as a duplicate and creates a reference to the existing encrypted file.

If no matching hash value is found, the encrypted file is stored in the cloud storage system.

This approach significantly reduces storage consumption while maintaining strong data security.

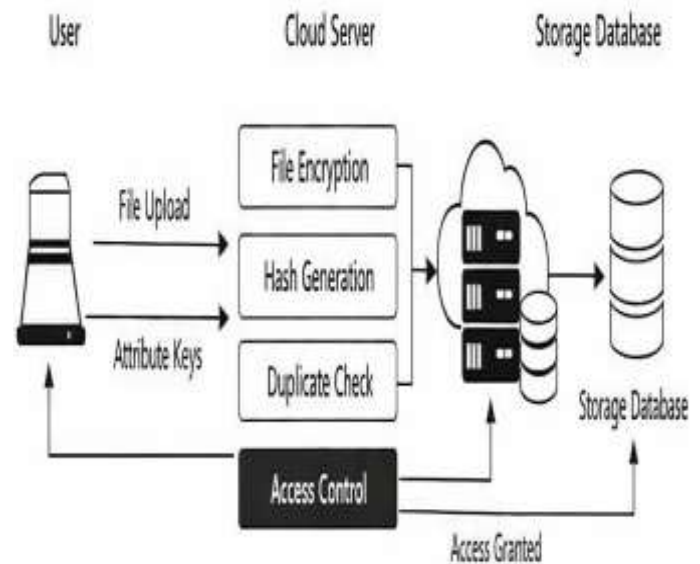


Figure 1: System Architecture of Secure Attribute-Based Cloud Storage

5. METHODOLOGY

The proposed methodology integrates encryption, hashing, and deduplication mechanisms to ensure secure and efficient cloud storage.

When a user uploads a file, the system first verifies the user's identity through authentication mechanisms. After authentication, the uploaded file is processed by the encryption module.

The encryption module applies attribute-based encryption to protect the file. This ensures that only users with the required attributes can decrypt the data.

Next, a cryptographic hash function such as SHA-256 is applied to generate a unique hash value. Hash functions convert input data into fixed-length outputs that uniquely represent the original file.

The generated hash value is compared with existing hashes stored in the cloud database. If a match is found, the file is considered a duplicate and the system creates a logical reference instead of storing another copy.

If the hash value is unique, the encrypted file is stored in the cloud server along with its hash value.

Figure 2: Secure Data Deduplication Workflow

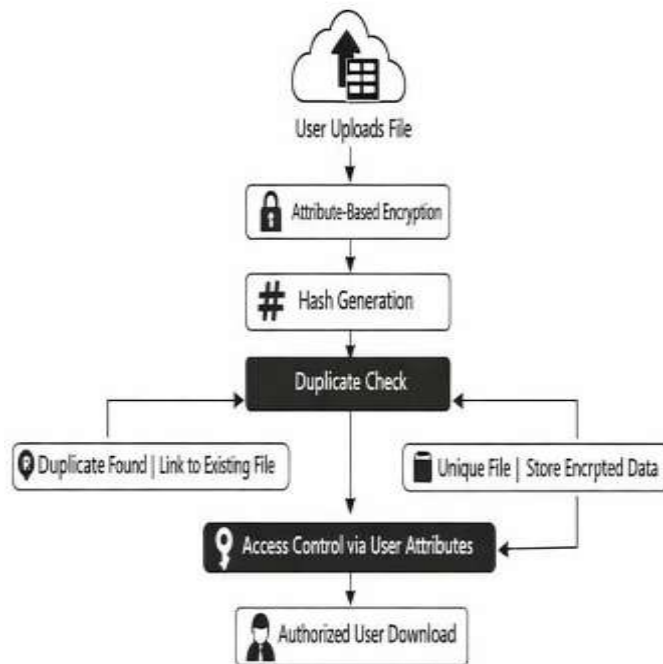


Figure 2: Secure Data Deduplication Workflow

6. IMPLEMENTATION MODULES

The proposed system includes several functional modules that work together to ensure secure cloud storage.

User Module:

Handles user registration, login authentication, and file upload operations.

Encryption Module:

Applies attribute-based encryption to protect user data.

Hash Generation Module:

Generates unique hash values using cryptographic algorithms such as SHA-256.

Deduplication Module:

Compares generated hash values with stored hashes to detect duplicate files.

Access Control Module:

Ensures that only authorized users can access encrypted data.

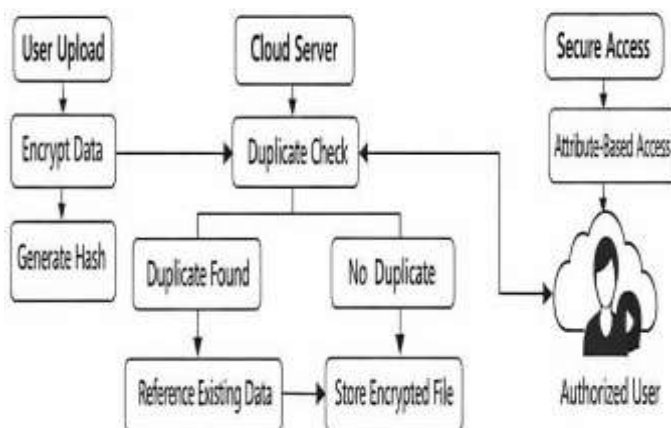


Figure 3: Cloud Storage Deduplication Process

7. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The proposed system was evaluated using several test datasets containing both unique and duplicate files.

Experimental results show that the system successfully detects duplicate files and eliminates redundant storage. Storage consumption was reduced significantly compared to traditional cloud storage systems.

The system achieved storage reduction levels ranging from 40% to 60% depending on the number of duplicate files in the dataset.

Additionally, the attribute-based encryption mechanism ensured that unauthorized users were unable to access stored data.

The system also reduced network bandwidth usage because duplicate files were not uploaded multiple times.

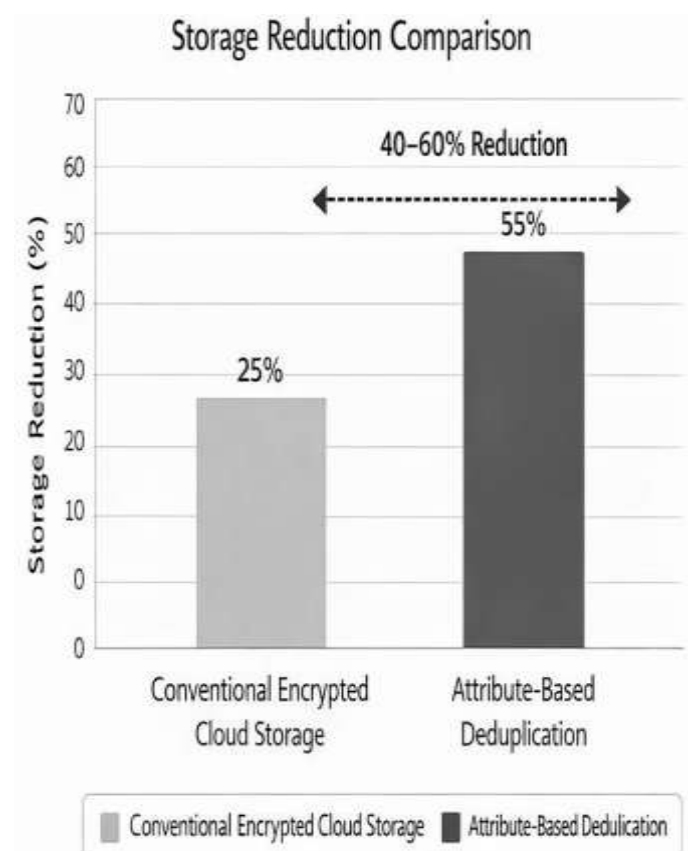


Figure 4: Storage Reduction Comparison

Table 1: Comparison of Existing Methods

Method	Security Level	Deduplication Support	Storage Efficiency
Traditional Cloud Storage	Low	No	Low
Encryption Only	High	No	Low
Basic Deduplication	Medium	Yes	Medium
Proposed Attribute-Based Deduplication	Very High	Yes	High
Proposed Attribute-Based Deduplication		High	Fine-Grained

Table 2: Literature Survey Comparison

Paper	Year	Key Focus	Approach	Limitations
Jin et al. [8]	2016	Secure deduplication in cloud storage	Hybrid PK+HF Approach	Limited Access Control
Yang et al. [9]	2018	Attribute-based secure deduplication	ABE with Ciphertext Policy Approach	Higher computational overhead
Rashid et al. [10]	2019	Privacy-preserving secure deduplication	AES with Convergent Encryption	No Authorization Framework
Kou et al. [11]	2020	Attribute-based cryptographic storage	Attribute-Based CP-ABE Method	Scalability Issues
Zhou et al. [12]	2021	Secure deduplication with fine-grained access control	UD + AB Encryption UA Approach	Limited Efficiency

UD = Attribute-Based Secure Deduplication UA = Fine-Grained Access Control

PK = Public Key Cryptography

AB = Attribute-Based Encryption

HF = Hash Function-based

8. CONCLUSION

This research presents a secure attribute-based cloud storage system for encrypted data deduplication. The proposed approach integrates attribute-based encryption with hash-based duplicate detection to ensure both data security and storage efficiency.

By eliminating redundant file storage, the system significantly reduces cloud storage consumption while maintaining strong access control mechanisms.

Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed system improves storage efficiency and enhances cloud data security.

Future research can focus on improving system scalability and integrating advanced cryptographic techniques to support large-scale cloud environments.

9. Acknowledgement

The authors would like to express their sincere gratitude to Mrs. K. Bindusha, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Bharathiyar Institute of Engineering for Women, Salem, for her valuable guidance and continuous support in completing this research work.

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